

Suffolk Genetic Acquisition Program (Suffolk GAP)



In 2015 USSA Board developed a Suffolk genetic recovery program under the breed improvement plan as it became apparent that a number of Suffolk breeders had not registered their Suffolks for many years. Usually this was due to generational change and a long lapse in connection to the registry. The Suffolk GAP program provides an avenue to record unregistered Suffolk ewes in the flock book at 75% Suffolk with application acceptance. The percentage program will be used to track generational progress in the GAP program. These ewes, over time and generations, are eligible to become purebred (white paper) when using a registered purebred ram in the subsequent breeding seasons after entry. **All animals registered through GAP will have a permanent designation on their registration paper noting their original descent.**

Eligibility for Suffolk GAP registrations

1. Must be a member in good standing of the USSA or UJSSA
2. Certify to the best of your knowledge that the sheep being considered for GAP are of Suffolk descent.
3. Offspring of these ewes are only eligible for registration if sired by a registered Suffolk ram.
4. Papers have not been maintained on these ewes for generations
5. Records have been maintained on the ewes and you are confident that they are Suffolk in their genetic makeup

Application Instructions

1. Enrollment and acceptance into the program is limited to one time. Ewes are enrolled, accepted, and recorded as a complete group. There is no additional entry for ewes in subsequent years.
2. Fill out the background questionnaire about these ewes on the following page
3. An inspection, either physically or photographically, will validate their phenotype and determine their eligibility for registration
 - a. Physical inspection will be by a USSA director or designee of the USSA Board
 - b. Two photos per ewe will be required. For larger groups of ewes, please contact the Suffolk Office for alternative requirements.
 - i. One picture of the animal's head (front view) and one picture of the animal's profile (side view)
 - ii. Photos should be of reasonable quality and clear
4. Once ewes have been approved for registration an inventory list of initial entry ewes that includes tag number and birth year should be submitted to the association. To register lambs, complete the application for registration, noting GAP on the form.

I hereby apply for the inclusion of _____ (list number of ewes for consideration) ewe(s) for consideration to be registered in the United Suffolk Sheep Association under the provisions of the Genetic Acquisition Program.

Initials Required:

___ I certify to the truth and accuracy of the information to be listed on the application for registry for the above noted ewes.

___ I understand that ewes are enrolled, accepted, and recorded as a complete group, all at once. There is no additional entry for ewes in subsequent years.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Submit this application and photos to info@suffolks.org or mail to United Suffolk Sheep Association, P.O. Box 121, Holland, IA 50642. You will be contacted by the Association office and a USSA director from your district.

Suffolk Genetic Acquisition Program (GAP) Background Information

1. Briefly explain why these sheep have not been registered.
2. Explain the origin of these ewes in your operation, ie: bred and raised them, acquired from family operation, dissolved partnership, etc.
3. Summarize their genetic background: what are their general bloodlines, who have been the breeders of their sires, any prominent individuals in their lineage.